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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC
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Released: August 3, 2006

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Idaho Mink Production up 2.8 Percent

Mink pelt production in Idaho in 2005 totaled 173,700 pelts, up 2.8 percent from 2004. The number of pelts by color class as a percent of the total Idaho production in 2005 is as follows: Black at 39.7 percent, Mahogany at 35.5 percent, Demi/Wild at 9.2 percent, and Blue Iris at 6.6 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 9.0 percent. Female mink bred to produce kits in 2006 totaled 48,100, up 10.3 percent from the previous year.

Mink pelt production in the United States in 2005 totaled 2.63 million pelts, up 3 percent from 2004. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 778,000 pelts. Utah the second largest producing State, produced 600,000 pelts. The number of pelts by color class as a percent of the total U.S. production in 2005 is as follows: Black at 47.6 percent, Mahogany at 20.9 percent, Blue Iris at 11.3 percent, Demi/Wild at 6.3 percent, Sapphire at 4.0 percent, and White at 3.8 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 6.1 percent. Mink pelts produced during the 2005 crop year were valued at \$160 million, up 33 percent from \$120 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2005 crop year was \$60.90, up from \$47.10 in 2004. Female mink bred to produce kits in 2006 totaled 651,600, up 2 percent from the previous year. Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2006 by color class are: Black at 49.5 percent, Mahogany at 17.8 percent, Blue Iris at 11.2 percent, Demi/Wild at 6.3 percent, Sapphire at 4.1 percent and White at 4.0 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 7.1 percent. There were 277 mink farms producing pelts in 2005, down 6 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 70 farms, Wisconsin with 67 farms and Minnesota with 24. There were 21 mink farms which also raised fox in 2005, up from 17 the previous year.

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